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ADDITIONAL

EtoKid

I'VE GOT YOUR MOTHER--
AND THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL
SAVE HER...

IS OVER YOUR
DEAD BODY!

DIRECT EDITION

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OBI

SKRICE
+
DVORAK '93



ECTO ALQUIMINE IS A MAN WHO LOVES HIS WORK...

THAT WORK CONSISTS MOSTLY OF TORTURING, MUTILATING AND MURDERING ANYONE WHO STANDS IN HIS WAY.

RIGHT NOW, CAUGHT IN THE HEADLIGHTS OF THIS RUN-AWAY PSYCHOPATH IS A YOUNG BOY NAMED DEX MUNG.

Ectokid





LOOK!
IT'S YOUR
NOWMY!

JOSEPHINE ANIMSO
CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK
AT DEX THROUGH THE
MONITOR.

SHE HAD NOT SEEN HER
SON SINCE SHE WAS
KIDNAPPED BY THE
AUGUSTINE BROTHERS,
ICE AND TOM--

--MERCENARIES WHO ENFORCE
THE WILL OF A SECRET SOCIETY
OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS
POWERBROKERS KNOWN AS
THE EXPURGATORIUS.

ONCE A PROUD MYSTIC QUEEN,
SHE REFUSED TO GIVE ICE
AUGUSTINE THE SATISFACTION
OF LETTING HER SON SEE THE
HUMILIATION IN HER EYES.



OOH!
THAT RICH
AND CREAMY
LATHER!

GETTING READY
TO LEAVE THIS WORLD
AS SHE CAME IN--
COMPLETELY HAIRLESS!

OH, THE SWEET
IRONY! FIRST A VOW
OF CHASTITY, NOW
THE VOW OF
SILENCE--



--THAT GURE LOOKS HEAVY, AND
LONG I HOPE SHE DOESN'T FALL
ASLEEP DURING THE GREATEST
STORY EVER TOLD.

MEET DEX MUNGO, SOMETIME THIEF, FULL-TIME STREET RAT: HALF-HUMAN, AND HALF-GHOST. ENTER HIS REALM, THE ECTOSPHERE — A WONDROUS AND OFTEN DEADLY PLACE OF FANTASY, HORROR AND GRITTY ACTION BETWEEN THE HERE AND THE HEREAFTER.



OH, NO! NOT THAT--NOT, THE PAIN OF PAIN!

YOU'RE SICK! REMEMBER!

STICKS AND STONES!

MAMA! OH, GOD-- IF YOU HURT HER!

OH, NO--NOT A CLIFFHANGER! WE'LL HAVE FIRST TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR--



"YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE MOTHER"

A WACHOWSKI SKRODCE DVORAK BARTA · GASPAR · THOMAS · McLAURIN · POTTS · SMITH · DEFALCO PRODUCTION

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HEY, I SEE THAT!
OHMM, THAT'S
GOING TO COST
YOU!

LOOK, YOU AND YOUR
BROTHER WILL BRING
MY MOTHER TO ST. LOUIS
CEMETERY #4 AT
MIDNIGHT TWENTY.

YOU CAN'T TELL
ME WHAT TO DO!

NO BUT THE
PEOPLE WHO
JERK YOUR
LEASH CAN!
THEY WANT THE
MONEY--THEIR
KEY INTO AND
OUT OF THE
ECTO-SHERE!
YOU'LL BE
THERE.
GOOD-BYE.

DON'T YOU DARE
HANG UP--DON'T
YOU DO IT--
NOOOOAAAAHHH!

TOM, LOOK WHAT YOU DID.
NOW CLEAN THIS UP AND
GET ME A NEW PHONE.

KA-BOOM

ELSEWHERE--

AT LAST!
THE ALIENAT
IS MINE!

THE MAN SIMPLY KNOWN
AS THE GEMERAL, ONE
OF THE MOST POWERFUL
MEN IN THE EXCURGATORIUS,
IS DREAMING.

WHILE HE DOESN'T KNOW FOR
CERTAIN WHAT THE ALIENAT IS,
LIKE ALL THE OTHERS IN THAT
UNHOLY ALLIANCE, HE HAS HIS
HOPES.

HE KNOWS
THE LEGEND--

THE TIME IS NOW,
MY BELOVED BOYS,
TO AVENGE YOUR
BATTLEFIELD
DEATHS--

--THAT IT WILL OPEN
WIDE A DOORWAY INTO
THE ECOSPHERE.

ARISE!

AND ALLOW ALL THAT
EVER LIVED, TO
RETURN.

SKY-
PUMPH!

WITH AN ARMY OF THE
GREATEST SOLDIERS WHO
EVER LIVED BEHIND HIM,
THE GENERAL TRACKS DOWN
HIS MOST NEFARIOUS
NEMESIS--

I HAVE YOU NOW,
YOU HORNED
DEVIL!

NYA-NYA-NYA
AMERICAN
PIG-DOG!

UNSTOPPABLE LEGION
OF THE DEAD! STORM
THE PALACE OF OUR
ENEMY!

CURSES
FOILED
AGAIN!

VICTORY
IS OURS!

THREE CHEERS
FOR OUR
BELOVED
GENERAL!

EASY LADS! OUR
WAR HAS JUST
BEGUN. LOOK!









THEIR EYES GLAZE WITH
THE INTOXICATION OF
UNLIMITED POWER--



THREE MINUTES--



--IS ALL THAT
STANDS
BETWEEN THEM
AND THEIR
WICKED DREAM.



WHEN THE
BIG HAND
HITS 12--



--THE WORLD
IS THEIRS TO
REMAKE...



TWO MINUTES.

TWO MINUTES
TO MIDNIGHT.



TOM, ICE'S YOUNGER BROTHER CAN SEE GHOSTS.

ICE CANNOT.



THIS FACT HAS CHAFED ICE SINCE CHILDHOOD.





THE SPIRITS OF THE
CEMETERY CAN FEEL
DEX COMING.

THEIR WHISPERS RISE
LIKE THE RATTLE OF
WIND-BLOWN LEAVES.
"HE'S HERE!"



AS A GHOST OF PURE ECTOPLASM,
HE CAN PASS THROUGH THE
WROUGHT IRON LIKE THE FOG
THAT HAS GATHERED.

THE BROTHERS AUGUSTINE
MURDERED HIS FATHER AND
HIS FRIENDS.

DEX HAS COME TO THIS
CEMETERY, TO THIS PLACE
OF DEATH, FOR MORE THAN
THE LIFE OF HIS MOTHER--

--HE HAS COME TO
SETTLE THE
SCORE.







AS TOM REPEATS
DEX'S WORDS,
ICE SMILES.

HE HAS NOW.



LOOK AT ME,
FREAK--
I WANT YOU TO
REMEMBER
THIS PICTURE!

REMEMBER HOW YOUR
SWEET MAMA LOOKED
BEFORE I SPLATTERED
HER FACE INTO RED
JELLY?

AND SINCE
YOU'RE A
STINKIN'
SHOOT, YOU
CAN'T DO
NOTHIN'
ABOUT IT!

NOOOOOOOO!





DEX DRIVES THROUGH
ICE & FLESH...

--ECTOPLASM SMACKING
AGAINST ECTOPLASM--

--TWO SOULS
BURSTING--

--LIKE THE SKIN OF
A SLATIN-FILLED
BALLOON--

--SLOSHING,
SPATTERING,
SWIRLING
BACK
TOGETHER--

--DEEP
INSIDE.

--AS DEX
SQUEEZES
HIMSELF--

GUMPH

WHAT'D YOU
DO TO ME LITTLE--



DEX FIGHTS DESPERATELY,
CLAWING FOR SOME
KIND OF CONTROL.



ICE... THE
GHOSTS... THE
GHOSTS! I
THINK WE
SHOULD GO--

SHUT UP,
TOM!!
COME ON,
GHOST-BOY!

FOCUSING ALL HIS
RAGE AND POWER,
DEX POSSESSES
ICE'S LEFT HAND.

WHAT?!



LEGGO!
LEMMIE
GO,
FREAK!







GETTING
TIRED,
FREAK?

NO...NOT...
YET...

THIS REMINDS
ME OF A LITTLE
SONG--



DEX WEAKENS AS
ICE PINS HIS OWN
HAND UNDER HIS
THICK BOOT...

"WHEREVER WE
GO...WHATEVER WE
DO..."

"WE'RE GOING TO GO
THROUGH IT..."



"TOGETHER!"

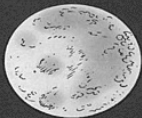


SAY GOODBYE
TO MONKEY!



KLIK!

DEX SUMMONS EVERY
LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH
TO FREE THE HAND.



YOU GOTTA
BE KIDDING!



NEXT
MONTH

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE! IN JUST THIRTY DAYS:
"SOULS MADE WHOLE."

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
HAZORLINE
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EDITOR

Ectokid

Marc McLaurin

mixing of the minds

If you haven't checked out Tim Burton's *THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS*, I highly recommend it. I think it's one of the best examples of blurring distinctions between genres. It reminded me of this book.

And it got me thinking of the amazing task we've undertaken here. When you hit upon something new and expose it to the public for the first time, it can really excite people, and set off a whole hoard of imitators. Of course, it can also scare people, and leave you standing in their dust.

I remember from my days as a college party D.J. that there were always new songs I knew folks would love but which none of them would dance to. At least, not until they'd heard it at least twice. The same song that cleared the floor one month would bring everyone out the next, when the flavor had become familiar.

But months later, the D.J.s who dared to play the newest good music were the ones who got called back to run the next party.

what's the flavor

So, familiarity can breed acceptance, as easily and as often as it does contempt. And the bottom line is you never know when something really new and different will hook. But that kind of daring is what ECTOKID has been about from day one.

So how do we taste now?

Normally, we use this space to print the many letters we get from our readers. However, this month we decided to try something a little different: an interview with Steve Skroce, the penciler on the book.

Just so those of you who wrote in this month don't feel left out, we're sending a random five letter writers an eleven by seventeen photostatic reproduction of this month's cover. Those that receive the goods, enjoy.

Are interviews something you might like to see more often? Let us know.

Now it's off to Canada to spend a few minutes with ECTOKID penciler Steve Skroce.

What first made you want to draw comics?

Skroce — Well, I got into super heroes when I first saw the old Adam West, Burt Ward, Batman. That got me going into school every day and, when I should have been studying math or english, drawing little pictures of

Batman being frozen by Mr. Freeze. It went on to the Spider-Man Cartoon.

Then I found out, in I think first grade, that my school had this comic book club, and I went to that. This was a bunch of guys who were already really into comics. My first day in the club was kind of a bad experience. The way it worked was you would bring your comics and you would trade them, so you could read a whole bunch of comics without blowing your whole allowance. Well, my first day I couldn't get anyone to trade my Star Trek comic with me (laughs). That was depressing.

How did you get the job?

Skroce — From the moment I got out of high school, I was sending out samples. I knew this was what I wanted to do for sure. In the meantime, I worked a day job. I worked at this metal factory scrapping slag off metal boxes, day in and day out. I'd work all day and then at night, I'd just draw comic book pages and send them to everybody. And finally, I saved up enough money to take a week off and go to the San Diego comic book convention.

That's where I met Marcus (McLaurin). He liked my stuff, but I still had some work to do. So, I took some time to just concentrate on learning the basics. If there's anything I can suggest it's learn from those around you. I learned a lot just listening to people, other artist, at the San Diego comic book convention. There are a lot of people in our industry that are very willing to help newcomers, given the chance. Not all, mind you, but a lot will at least spend a minute with someone who isn't a jerk about asking for too much. Just listen more than talk, and you should be fine.

Anyway, the next time I mailed in with new samples, I got a phone call from Marcus.

As of now, you've done the pencils up through issue nine of ECTOKID. What's your current take on the character?

Skroce — I like him. Dex is a character that right off the bat, people might not give a chance, because he's not a gun-toting, testosterone-charged comic book character. But I think Dex is one of the most interesting comic characters out there. I see him as the kid in Terminator. More mature than he should be for his age — a born hero type — but with a street-tough kind of attitude.

Who are some of your major influences?

Skroce — Michael Golden is probably the biggest influence. Just the way he lays out a page is so dynamic and eye catching. It's so exciting. There's real-

ly nothing he does when he draws that's boring. It's cartoony, it's fun — that's really why. It's fun. But it's incredibly detailed, not just useless lines either, it's like real detail.

Is there a book by Golden that comes to mind as the book which shows what you're talking about?

Skroce — Yes, it's in an issue of MARVEL FANPAC. I think issue #47. I think it must have taken him forever to do. It's the story where the Hulk gets poisoned by some alien, starts trashing part of New York, and Spider-Man fights him. It's just amazing stuff. How about some other influences?

Mike Mignola, because he's excellent with light, both dark and moody. He's got such a simplified style. I don't think there's anyone in comics who has simplified their work so much, but it's still powerful; it's more of a plus than a minus. Todd McFarlane and Jim Lee for page layout and design. They're dynamic and know how to draw super heroes. Kevin Maguire, just because of his realistic faces and his understanding of expressions.

Thanks Steve

NEXT:

The power of possession is Dexal But not without a price, as Dex and Joe sorta swap souls! (Say that five times fast!) Be here for all the sickly details in "Souls Made Whole"

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week in

HOKUM & HEX #7:

Tripp Munroe is dead—Or is he? It's a split-second adventure as Tripp's life flashes before his eyes, and Bloodshed threatens to make the journey his last!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

In SAINT SEVER #7:

Trapped between the Earth and the Ectosphere, with helpless humans to protect, Philip is truly on the eve of destruction! Is this the Saint Sinner's final hour?

In HYPERKID #8:

The Wild Woman of the original Paxis returns—with a vengeance! Witness the resurrection of Tempest, with special guest penciler, Roger Cruz in the newest exciting chapter in the unfolding history of the Barkerverse!